



## STAFF REPORT

### TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OF APRIL 08, 2014

To: Town Council

From: Town Manager

Subject: Loomis Sunset Rotary Request for Town to Cosponsor and Provide Support for Creek Week and Secret Ravine Clean up

Date: March 27, 2014

#### **RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Hear presentation, discuss request and approve Co sponsorship and financial support in the amount of \$250.00 towards the project.

#### **DISCUSSION:**

The Loomis Sunset Rotary Club is proposing to establish a partnership with the Town of Loomis, the Loomis Sunset Rotary, willing and interested property owners, and the Dry Creek Conservancy. This partnership will promote "Creek Week" in the Town of Loomis and implement long-term maintenance projects in a specific area of Secret Ravine.

The project area on Secret Ravine currently identified for restoration and long-term maintenance is defined as that area on the North side of Secret Ravine beginning at the bridge on Brace Road and extending the length of the creek, where the creek runs through the property currently bank owned, but previously referred to as "Turtle Island". This project does not propose to access or touch any property other than that property on the bank owned property where the former Turtle Island project was proposed.

## **Proposed Partnership Roles and Responsibilities:**

### **Loomis Sunset Rotary Club**

The Rotarians will encourage public participation in all of the work being conducted. In that sense, all tasks in this project will be community projects that will be advertised to encourage public ownership and participation in these projects. However, the Rotarians will be the sweat equity in this partnership. Rotarians will pick up the trash, move tire piles, pull weeds, dig holes and plant the plants. Rotary International will provide insurance coverage for any Rotary organized event.

### **The Dry Creek Conservancy (DCC)**

Dry Creek staff and volunteers will provide direction, supervision and expertise throughout the process. DCC will provide examples of forms and approvals required in other projects, like the Participant Waiver of Liability, Proof of Insurance and Property Access Approval forms. DCC staff will submit applications to CalRecycle for assistance in abating the abandoned tire piles. They will also provide the certified applicators for any chemical applications. DCC will also provide the qualified biologist for any work requiring individuals with that particular qualification.

### **Property Owner**

The property owner will provide access to the property for all work being conducted.

### **The Town of Loomis**

The Town of Loomis holds the Streambed Alteration Agreement that provides for the town to conduct "routine maintenance projects" within areas controlled by Department of Fish and Game (DFG)/Army Corps of Engineers. The town will submit the notifications required by the Agreement and inspect or supervise the work as necessary. The town and Rotary will also be co-sponsors of the Dry Creek Conservancy (DCC) "Creek Week" activities. Since Dry Creek Conservancy staff includes professional and certified individuals who can prepare necessary documents and supervise work as it is being conducted, the use of town staff and resources are seen as minimal.

### **CEQA:**

There are no CEQA issues at present.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

The Town has \$500 budgeted in Council Donations and Awards for Creek Week.



## The Rotary Club of Loomis Sunset

PO Box 2116

Loomis, CA 95650

### **Subject:**

The Loomis Sunset Rotary Club is requesting the Loomis Town Council to join in a partnership to promote

- Creek Week activities in the Town of Loomis
- And to form a partnership to Adopt a Creek in partnership with community groups in the Town

The Creek Week activities have, so far, been identified as a public clean-up of areas on the old Turtle Island properties that are littered with abandoned homeless camps and an abandoned tire pile, which contaminate Secret Ravine when it rains.

The long-term partnership is a joining together of The Town, Dry Creek Conservancy, the owner of the Turtle Island site and the local Rotary Club to restore and maintain the area adjacent to Secret Ravine where it runs through the former Turtle Island property, on the Turtle Island side of the creek.

The town is needed in this partnership effort, as the town holds a permit from Army Corps of Engineers and California Department of Fish and Game that allows the partnership to conduct the restoration and maintenance work. The resources required from the town in this effort are seen as minimal, but essential to the effort. Town staff will need to review the notice that will be prepared, notifying the Corps and Fish and Game, that the work will be conducted. Staff will also need to review any grant request that is submitted in order to affect the tire-pile cleanup. Beyond that, there is a \$250.00 contribution from the town to jointly sponsor "Creek Week" in The Town of Loomis.

### **Requested Action:**

Approve town staff to establish a partnership to collaborate with Loomis Sunset Rotary, willing property owners and the Dry Creek Conservancy to:

- Promote Creek Week in Loomis as cosponsor with Loomis Sunset Rotary.
- Conduct long-term cleanup and maintenance of Secret Ravine, where willing owners are interested in joining the partnership under the Dry Creek Conservancy, Adopt a Creek program.

### **CEQA Impact:**

The long term project may provide mitigation for future projects in Loomis by enhancing the locations, viability and survival of a listed threatened species, the Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle.

There are examples of Elderberry Bushes (*Sambucus*) located on the property currently being proposed for clean-up. This plant is the habitat for a currently listed threatened species, valley elderberry longhorn beetle, *Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*. The listing is proposed to be removed from the listing of Threatened and Endangered Species. However, in the event that the species remains on the listing, habitat enhancement will assist future projects in Loomis with this particular species in processing their projects.

**Financial Impact:**

\$250 to cosponsor Creek Week with the Loomis Sunset Rotary. The Town and Rotary will contribute \$250.00 each to sponsor Creek Week 2014. Previously, The Town funded this sponsorship by itself.

Minimal staff time to review and submit notifications to Cal. Fish and Game for work conducted pursuant to the Town's existing permit.

The town will contribute the staffing costs necessary for the town to supervise the activities, as required in the DFG agreement.

Rotary will provide all staffing for events and carry out the heavy lifting.

We are hoping that we can get an Abandoned Tire Clean-Up Grant from CalRecycle to clean up the abandoned tire mess.

**Background:**

Over the years, The Town of Loomis has engaged in partnerships to carry out programs that implement the Town of Loomis General Plan and improve the quality of life for Loomis residents. This proposal is collaboration with established community groups. The Loomis Sunset Rotary Club is proposing to establish a partnership with The Town of Loomis, The Loomis Sunset Rotary, willing and interested property owners, and the Dry Creek Conservancy. This partnership will promote "Creek Week" in The Town of Loomis and implement long-term maintenance projects in a specific area of Secret Ravine.

The group is also open to discussing other projects involving cleaning and maintaining the creeks in other areas of Loomis, where councilmembers and willing property owners are interested in seeing improvements or maintenance.

**Project Area:**

The project area on Secret Ravine currently identified for restoration and long-term maintenance is defined as that area on the North side of Secret Ravine beginning at the bridge on Brace Road and extending the length of the creek, where the creek runs through the property currently bank owned, but previously referred to as "Turtle Island". This project does not propose to access or touch any property other than that property on the bank owned property where the former Turtle Island project was proposed.

**Partnership Roles and Responsibilities:**

**The Town of Loomis**

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**Project Description:**

All tasks of the project can be considered "routine maintenance" of streambeds and riparian areas within The Town of Loomis. The project includes:

**Creek Week Activities in the Town of Loomis:**

Dry Creek Conservancy has sponsored, "Creek Week" throughout South Placer County for the past 11 years. During Creek Week, waterway oriented educational and community participation events are hosted at venues throughout the South Placer County cities and unincorporated areas. Examples of past educational events are a Secret Ravine Nature Hike, Traylor Ranch Bird Walk and a Dry Creek Watershed Tour. Some past community environmental projects are a Salmon Survey Project, fish planting workshops and creek litter removal at various locations. The Town, Rotary and Dry Creek Conservancy will endeavor to hold at least one Creek Week educational or community participation event during Creek Week 2014. This year, the creek week activity will take place on Rotarian at Work day, April 26<sup>th</sup>, and will include the cleanup of abandoned homeless camps along with a historic abandoned tire pile that has been on the property for several years. Neither of these projects is within the area requiring notification of California Department of Fish and Game. Therefore, they can proceed quickly with no staff participation.

**Removing litter and debris from abandoned homeless encampments:**

Over the years, the remote, scenic and undeveloped nature of this property has made it attractive to individuals seeking to enjoy the wild outdoors, yet enjoy the convenience of local nearby services in a vagabond lifestyle. Unfortunately, while enjoying this devil-may-care lifestyle, they did not subscribe to the town's designated residential refuse removal franchise service, nor did the mendicant picaros take with them the litter, bedding and other accoutrements of their itinerant lifestyle when they engaged in their seasonal migration. Consequently, there is a significant quantity of refuse and debris that needs to be removed from the drainage area, before it migrates into the creek.

**Removing and disposing of a large abandoned tire pile in the drainage area:**

According the CalRecycle staff estimates, during the year 2010 Californians generated 41.1 million waste tires. Fortunately, 33.2 million of those waste tires found a "beneficial use" after they were worn out. If you do the math, that still leaves 7.9 million tires that had to go somewhere. While we are not saying that all of last year's illegally disposed of tires wound up on this property, the fact is that sometime over the past years, many tires that did not find a "beneficial use" wound up on this property somehow in one general location. Not wanting to point fingers at anyone, the partnership will seek assistance of CalRecycle to remove and properly dispose of a large pile of tires that got dumped on this property. Rotarians will provide the grunt work. The Dry Creek Conservancy will submit a grant application with CalRecycle to provide funding.

**Long Term Enhancement and Maintenance:**

Replanting and enhancing native species of flora and fauna:

There is currently a large and well established Elderberry plant located on this property. One task will be to enhance the area by propagating and transplanting Elderberry bushes from existing locations on the property, where they may be facing exposure in the future, to new areas nearer Secret Ravine. This will improve the functional diversity of the area, help with recovering a threatened species, and assist the landowner with environmental issues in any future project application. This task will also benefit other future projects in Loomis by helping to remove this native plant, found in this area, from the Endangered Species Listing, thus removing CEQA issues from future projects, as they relate to this particular Endangered Species.

Removing invasive species that are preventing the growth of native plants in the riparian environment:

The Oak undergrowth is being strangled by what John Williams, one of the experts examining the site, as one of the worst invasions of Vinca he has ever seen. The vinca is genus Apocynaceae commonly known as a Periwinkle. To a minor degree, the Himalayan Blackberry is also established in the area. This invasive species prevents the establishment of native plants and channelizes the creek, causing bank erosion downstream, washing out of any proximate Salmon spawning beds and silting over of downstream Salmon spawning beds. This work will be conducted during the months of August 15<sup>th</sup> through March 1<sup>st</sup>. Any mechanized work will be concluded by October 15<sup>th</sup>, in order to comply with Department of Fish and Game agreements. The project would be a multi-year project with work tasks being conducted in accordance to the appropriate season. Clean-up projects would be performed in the spring, weed abatement in the summer and plantings in the dormant bare-root season.